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THE

KINGS MAJESTIES

Most Gracious LETTER and

DECLARATION

To the Bishops, Deans and Prebends &c.

CHARLES R.

AS nothing is more in our desires then to provide that the [illegible] England, under our Reign might be furnished with a Religious, Learned, Sober, Modest, and Prudent Clergy [illegible] we are ready to give incouragement to their labours and study in their severall degrees and stations, that they may give Check to all Prophaneness and Superstition, and as zealously affect to remove all scandalls, and reproach from them and their callings, conceiving therefore a competent maintenance to be a necessary encouragement: And that all other persons who have power to dispose of Tythes, may be invited to cherish all Learned and Godly Ministery. We do resolve that because where Tythes have been appointed for the support of Bishops, Deans, and Chapters, Collegiate Churches, and Colledges: And other single persons that have not taken due care to Provide, and ordaine sufficient maintenance for the Vicars of their respective places, or for the Curates where Vicarages were not endowed, to settle for the future some good addition and encrease on such Vicarages and Curats places. Our will therefore is that forthwith provision be made for the augmentation of all such Vicarages, and Cures, where your Tythes and profits are appropriated to you and your successors, in such manner that they who immediately attend upon the performance of Ministeriall Offices in every Parish may have a competent portion out of every Rectory impropriate to your See. And this end our further will is, That no lease be granted of any Rectoryes or Parsonages belonging to your See, belonging to you [illegible] have so- Successors, untill you shall Provide that the respective Vicarages or Curats places, where are no Vicarages endow[illegible] it will bear it[illegible] Tythes, or other emoluments, as common- ly will amount to 100 or 80 l. *per Annum*, or where [illegible] Law, settle it upon them and their Succes- sors, and where the Rectoryes are of small value, and [illegible] cannot permit o[illegible] such p[illegible] Vicar and Curate, Our will is that one half of the profits of such a Rectory be reserved for the maintenance of the [illegible] Curate. And if any Leases or grants of such fore- named Rectories have been made by you since the first day of *June* last past, [illegible] you did not ordaine competent Augmentation of the Vica- rages or Cures in their respective places, our will is, That out of the Fines which you have received, or are to receive, you do add such encrease to the Vicar and Curate as is agreeable to the Rates and Proportions formerly mentioned.

And our further will is, that you do employ your Authority and power, which by Law belongeth to you as ordinary for the Augmentation of Vicarages, and stipends of Curates, and that you do with diligence proceed in due form of Law, for the rayling and establishing Convenient maintenance of those who do attend holy dutyes in Parish Churches; And if any Prebendary in any Church (the Corps of whose Prebend consists of Tythes) shall not observe these our Commands, then we require you, or the Deane of the Church, to use all due meanes in Law, where you or he hath power to compel them, or that otherwise you report to the Bishop of the Dioces, where the said Corps doth lye, that they may interpose his Authority for fulfilling this our Order; and if any Dean, or Dean and Chapter, or any that holdeth any dignity, or Prebend in the Cathedral Church do not observe these our Commands, that you call them before you, and see this our will be obeyed; And if you or any Bishop do not your duty, either in their own grants, or seeing others to do it then we will that upon complaint, the Arch-Bishop of the Province all performed according to this our Declaration, Will and Pleasure: And whereas there are divers rurall Prebends, where the Vicarages are not sufficiently endowed, we require you to see these our Commands be fully observed by them. And we do declare our Will and Pleasure in all the perticulars fore-cited to be, that if you or any of your Successors, or any Dean, or Dean and Chapter, of their our Cathedrial Church, or any other person holding any Office, Benefice or Prebend in the same, do or shall refuse or omit to observe these our Commands, we shall judge them unworthy of our future favour, whensoever any preferment Ecclesiasticall shall be desired by them from us.

And lastly our Will and Command is, that you and your Successors do at or before the first day of *October* in every year, render an account to the Arch-Bishop of how these our Orders and Commands are observed, That the Arch-Bishop afterwards may represent the same unto Us,

By his Majesties Command.
EDWARD NICHOLAS.

This is a true Copy of the Kings Letter, showed in the House of Commons by Sir Allin Brawdrift *the* 7th *of* August 1660.

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